



March 6, 2019

TO: Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Travis Hampton, Superintendent
Oregon State Police

SUBJECT: **Support of Senate Bill 577**

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher and Honorable Members of the Committee:

The Oregon State Police appreciates the opportunity to provide the committee members with our comments and support for Senate Bill 577, a bill which was crafted by a diverse panel of constituents as part of the Attorney General's Task Force on Hate Crimes. The Oregon State Police participated in this task force which included dozens of meetings and conference calls over an eight month period. The panel also heard multiple hours of testimony from community members impacted by hate crimes, during several listening sessions around the state. The discussion among panel members was lively, but courteous and professional. Ultimately the group reached consensus and we support the group's recommendations in this bill.

The Oregon State Police is devoted to swiftly and judiciously responding to and investigating hate crimes. Our agency is sensitive to the fact that these crimes not only adversely impact the individual victim or victims of the crime, but often adversely affect the entire community where the crime occurs. Based on recent trends, we recognize that the 'Intimidation' statutes, which were originally written in 1981, needs modernization. We also support the more victim-centered approach that this bill proposes and recognize the need for improved data collection and analysis.

In short, the Oregon State Police stands united with the other task force members in doing our part to better quantify and understand crimes motivated by bias, with the goal of eventually eliminating hate crimes in Oregon.

The Oregon State Police are appreciative of Attorney General Rosenblum's leadership on this effort and we urge your support of SB 577.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Travis P. Hampton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.